

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, ELAB, ILO, IS, US

1. ON SEPTEMBER 1 LABOR MINISTER BARAM AND LABOR
MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL GUREL DISCUSSED COMMON
US-US-ISRAELI INTERESTS CONCERNING THE ILO WITH SECRE-
TARY OF LABOR USERY. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS
SATISFACTION (AS GUREL AND BAR-YAACOV OF MFA HAD
PREVIOUSLY DONE -- SEE TEL AVIV 4986) WITH THE WELL-
COORDINATED AND WELL-PREPARED PERFORMANCE OF THE
US DELEGATION DURING THE JUNE ILO CONFERENCE AND
WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. HE STRESSED
PARTICULARLY:

A. THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION OF US GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYER
AND LABOR DELEGATES;

B. THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN PERSUADING WESTERN EUROPEAN
ALLIES TO JOIN IN A COMMON FRONT WITH THE US; AND

C. THEIR SUCCESSFUL LOBBYING AMONG AFRICAN AND ASIAN
DELEGATES TO CONVINCE THEM OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE
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US INTENTION TO WITHDRAW IN THE ABSENCE OF SIGNIFICANT

IMPROVEMENT IN ILO OPERATIONS.

HE SAID ISRAEL SUPPORTS THE TOUGH US APPROACH, THREATENING WITHDRAWAL AND SUSTAINING PRESSURE ON THE ILO AND ITS MEMBERSHIP IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT THE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES WHICH WOULD SATISFY AMERICAN LABOR EMPLOYERS, GOVERNMENT AND THE CONGRESS.

2. THE MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED ISRAELI CONCERN ABOUT THE VISIT TO ISRAEL OF PROFESSOR UPSAL. HE AND THREE ILO STAFF MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE SEPTEMBER 13 AS REPRESENTATIVES OF ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD TO LOOK INTO LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. WHILE THE GOI HAS AGREED TO THIS INVESTIGATION, IT CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE RESULT. BARAM TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD BE WARNED BY THE US THAT HE WOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE CONTENTS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT AND THAT THE QUESTION OF US FUTURE INTENT TO REMAIN IN THE ILO WOULD BE LINKED TO BLANCHARD'S EXERCISE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THIS REPORT. BOTH BARAM AND GUREL POINTED OUT THAT BLANCHARD IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE THREAT OF US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ORGANIZATION AND COULD IN THIS WAY BE PERSUADED TO EXERCISE HIS RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE UPSAL MISSION. ISRAEL DOES NOT EXPECT A WHITEWASH BUT FEELS IT HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION. THEREFORE, THEY REQUESTED THAT SECRETARY USERY STRESS THIS POINT WITH BLANCHARD WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER.

3. BARAM AND GUREL STRESSED THE NEED FOR CLOSE US-ISRAELI CONCENTRATION REGARDING ILO. THEY REQUESTED THAT DAN HOROWITZ OR ANOTHER US OFFICIAL VISIT ISRAEL PRIOR TO THE NEXT GOVERNING BODY MEETING TO DISCUSS THIS COORDINATION. GUREL COMPARED THE UNITY AND DISCIPLINE AMONG THE DELEGATES OF THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, THE ARABS AND THE COMMUNISTS WITH THE RELATIVE DISUNITY AMONG WESTERN DELEGATES. THIS DIS-

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UNITY MADE EFFECTIVE RESISTANCE TO ANTI-WESTERN ATTACKS DIFFICULT. HE SAID THAT ISRAEL COULD USE ITS INFLUENCE AMONG WESTERN SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS AND TRADE UNIONS AS ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIGHT TO PRESERVE THE TRIPARTITE AND DEMOCRATIC CHARACTER OF THE ILO. GUREL STRESSED PARTICULARLY THE NEED FOR A CONFERENCE OF LABOR MINISTERS PRIOR TO THE NEXT ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE AND SAID THAT COORDINATION SHOULD

BE SOUGHT NOT ONLY AT THE WESTERN TRADE UNION, EMPLOYER, AND DIPLOMATIC MISSION LEVEL, BUT ALSO AT THE LEVEL OF LABOR AND FOREIGN MINISTERS. BARAM AND GUREL SUGGESTED THAT THE WEST SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE US ALONE CONTRIBUTES OVER 25PERCENT OF THE ILO BUDGET AND THAT 11 ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTE 78PERCENT OF THE BUDGET BUT THAT THESE 11 KEY COUNTRIES HAVE ONLY 8 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT 75 PERCENT OF THE BUDGET GOES FOR SALARIES AND ONLY 25 PERCENT FOR OTHER EXPENSES. IF THE AFO-ASIAN MAJORITY IS TRULY INTERESTED IN THE CONTINUATION OF THE ILO, IT SHOULD BE MORE ACCOMMODATING AND REALISTIC IN ITS VOTING AND CONDUCT AT ILO MEETINGS.

4. HISTADRUT SECRETARY GENERAL YERUSHAM MESHEL IS PLANNING TO VISIT THE US IN FEBRUARY TO ATTEND THE AFL/CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOGETHER WITH CHAIRMAN VETTER OF THE DGB AND TUC SECRETARY GENERAL MURRAY TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE AFL/CIO PRESIDENT MEANY TO ASSUME CLOSER COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH THE WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS AND THE ICFTU IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF THE WESTERN ILO MEMBERS.

5. SECRETARY USERY STRESSED THAT THE US DOES NOT WANT TO LEAVE THE ILO AND IS SINCERE IN ITS DESIRE TO RESTORE THE TRIPARTITE CHARACTER, DUE PROCESS, AND TREATMENT OF LABOR AND SOCIAL ISSUES ON THE BASIS OF A FAIR AND NON-IDEOLOGICAL BASIS WITH ACTION TO BE BASED ON IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATIONS OF FACTS. THESE ARE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS AND GO BEYOND THE QUESTION OF SEEKING TO PROTECT ISRAEL AGAINST UNFAIR ATTACKS FROM ARAB, COMMUNIST AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.
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HOWEVER, IF THE US CANNOT GET SATISFACTION, IT IS FULLY DETERMINED TO CARRY OUT ITS WARNING AND WITHDRAW. WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE US TO REVERSE ITSELF ON ITS NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW, WHICH IS, IN FACT, ALREADY THE SECOND WARNING. THE US IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM WHICH SUCH WITHDRAWAL MIGHT CAUSE TO SOME OF ITS FRIENDS AND ALLIES, SUCH AS ISRAEL, AND WAS THEREFORE FULLY COMMITTED TO CLOSE CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION ON FUTURE STEPS TO BE TAKEN.
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